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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 001126

SIPDIS

FOR EUR/WE AND PM/RSAT, PM PLEASE PASS TO DSCA FOR VADM  
WIERINGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/15/2018  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [SP](#)  
SUBJECT: TOMAHAWK LIKELY FIRST VICTIM OF BUDGET AX

REF: A. MADRID 1091  
[1](#)B. MADRID 1092

Classified By: AMBASSADOR EDUARDO AGUIRRE, JR. REASONS 1.4B,D.

[1](#)1. (C) It now appears virtually certain that Spain, facing serious budgetary constraints and difficult economic times, will not purchase Tomahawk (TLAM) this year. In recent days we have had strong indications from the MOD that the new leadership team there has decided to forgo any expensive, new offensive systems purchases (reftels). Instead, they will focus limited resources on more modest purchases of systems designed to enhance force protection for Spanish troops (e.g., better armored vehicles).

[1](#)2. (C) In a brief conversation on the margins of Spain's October 12 national day parade, the MOD confirmed to the Ambassador that TLAM was not a possibility in the foreseeable future. MOD Secretary of State Constantino Mendez told the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency October 17 that Spain would not purchase TLAM at this time (the current offer expires October 31). However, Mendez said Spain would review the issue next year and might then move forward with the purchase. Mendez has been advised that waiting (which could change the price) might trigger a new Congressional notification requirement, and no one could guarantee that the opportunity to purchase TLAM would be available next year.

[1](#)3. (C) The Ambassador raised the issue with Secretary General of the Presidency Bernardino Leon, noting that giving Spain the opportunity to purchase TLAM was a difficult and time-consuming process. Leon has not responded, and we have no reason to believe the Presidency will overturn the recommendation of their defense experts regarding TLAM.  
AGUIRRE